

Message Text

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NESCO

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TAGS: UNESCO, OCON, PORG

SUBJ: DEBATE IN COMMISSION III, UNESCO GC ON NATCOM ISSUES

1. COMMISSION III HAS COMPLETED ITEM ON NATIONAL COMMISSIONS. DEBATE WAS SUBSTANTATIVE, NO POLITICAL ISSUES WERE RAISED. IN DAYS PRECEDING DEBATE U.S. NATCOM DIR. UPSTON HAD EXTENSIVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTER-PART SECRETARY GENERALS OF NATCOMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM AFRICA, AND EUROPEAN GROUP. NATCOMS ARE COMMUNICATING AND WORKING TOGETHER IN MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS GC'S. THEY ARE BECOMING AN INCREASING IMPORTANT FACTOR IN UNESCO.

2. STATEMENTS FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF NATCOMS AS PARTICIPATING IN FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNESCO PROGRAMS IN MEMBER STATES, NOT SIMPLY ADVISORY BODIES. EMPHASIS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN NATCOMS AT REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL, WITH STRENGTHENING OF UNESCO REGIONAL CENTERS. THROUGHOUT DEBATE POINTS WERE MADE ON NATCOMS UTILIZING OUTSIDE EXPERTS IN EVALUATION OF UNESCO PROGRAMS URGING UNESCO SPECIALIST PROGRAM BE DIRECTED THRU NATCOMS. STRONG EMPHASIS PLACED ON NATCOMS AS INFORMATION ORGANS IN MEMBER STATES; THE NEED FOR A CHARTER FOR NATIONAL COMMISSIONS;

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ISSIONS; DECENTRALIZATION OF UNESCO WITH MORE FUNDING FOR

NATCOMS FROM BOTH MEMBER STATES AND UNESCO; AND CLOSER NATCOM LINK TO OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS FUNDED BY UNDP.

3. US NATCOM CHAIRMAN POWER DELIVERED US STATEMENT RECALLING ROLE OF US NATCOM OVER PAST TWO YEARS IN CARRYING OUT UNESCO PROGRAMS. SINCE THE LAST GC US NATCOM DEVELOPED OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS IN MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB); WORLD POPULATION NEWS SERVICE; STUDENTS TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTICIPATION, YOUTH PROGRAM; ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM, DURING PERIOD OF "ENERGY CRISIS"; AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM "WEATHERVANE." POWER OUTLINED THAT DURING PAST BIENNIUM, US NATCOM HAS (1) HOSTED SEVEN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS; (2) PUBLISHED UNESCO RELATED PUBLICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION; FIRST INVENTORY ON STATUS OF WOMEN IN US; AND POPULATION.

SIGNIFICANCE:

(1) THE MAJORITY OF NATCOMS ARE NOW SPEAKING TO THE ROLE OF NATCOMS IN FORMULATING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATION OF UNESCO PROGRAMS. AT THE PAST TWO GC'S THE US TOOK A LEADERSHIP ROLE ON DECENTRALIZATION OF UNESCO PROGRAM, AND STRENGTHENING NATCOMS. A CONSENSUS IS NOW DEVELOPING ALONG THESE LINES.

(2) US NATCOM SECRETARIAT MEMS OF DEL HAD EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION WITH COUNTERPARTS, IN SUPPORT US POSITIONS ON REGIONAL GROUP, MASS MEDIA ISSUES. US NATCOM CHAIRMAN, HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN MEDIA ISSUE AND OVERALL "BEHIND THE SCENES" WORK OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT. IN PRIVATE CAPACITY PHILIP OWER HAS BEEN VERY CONSTRUCTIVE IN WORKING WITH US PRESS PRESENT IN NAIROBI.

(3) US NATCOM MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES ARE MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED THAN IN THE PAST IN PROGRAM WORK AT CONF. THIS IS PROVING EFFECTIVE IN US INPUT TO UNESCO PROGRAM.

(4) PROVIDING POLITICAL ISSUES ARE RESOLVED, US NATCOM POSTURED FOR IMPORTANT ROLE IN NEXT BIENNIUM. US NATCOM RELATIONSHIPS WITH UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND OTHER NATCOM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES CONSIDERED EXCELLENT THIS CONFERENCE.

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